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**Office of Boards**

**Central Planning Board**  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
201 733-6254

**Synthia L. James**  
Manager

**Ade Afolabi**  
Supervising Planning,  
Land Development Review

March 6, 1997

Elizabeth DelTufo, Chairperson  
Newark Landmark and Historic Preservation Commission  
1016 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: Documentation of 3/5/97 Meeting Relating to Historic Designation of Riverbank Park

Dear Mrs. DelTufo:

Yesterday evening we met to discuss the Newark Landmark and Historic Preservation Commission, (Commission) response to the 2/28/97 correspondence indicating the additional information that the Central Planning Board would need in order to hear the Riverbank Park designation matter.

The first issue addressed in the meeting was the Scope of Powers item indicating that evidence of prior approval from the Mayor is required. In the meeting you expressed that members of the Commission did not believe they were subject to prior Mayoral approval as indicated in 6S&FC 2:2-144 b6 "Scope of Powers", in relation to Historic Designation applications.

You will receive further information on the Scope of Powers section in relation to the historic designation matter as per the Newark Law Department.

With regard to the rest of the items in my correspondence, numbers 2-6, you gave me certain documents and expressed the following on behalf of the Commission:

- #2. The owner of the park will be notified of the proposed designation
- #3. A completed Application for Designation form signed by an applicant was given to me
- #4. A new Public Notice of the proposed designation will be placed in the Star Ledger

Page two

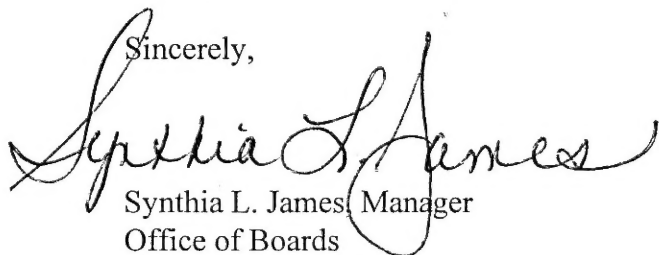
Re: Documentation of 3/5/97 Meeting Relating to Historic Designation of Riverbank Park

#5. A Record of Vote was given to me as recorded in Commission Minutes for 2/4/97, however, please note that this will need to be replaced by a subsequent Record of Vote that will reflect the meeting to be held in relation to the new ad

#6. Resolution wording will be provided by the Commission on the appropriate Municipal form

Again, you will be hearing from me in the near future with regard to the Scope of Powers issue.

Sincerely,

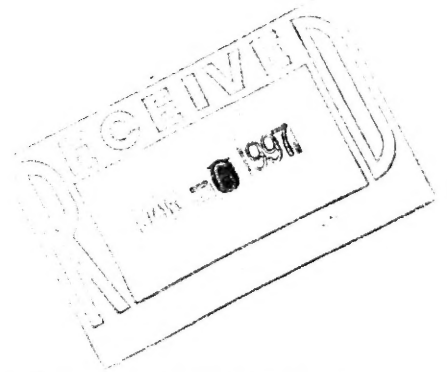
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Synthia L. James". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Synthia L. James, Manager  
Office of Boards

c: Harry Hines, Secretary, Newark Landmark and Historic Preservation Commission  
Ade Afolabi, Supervising Planner, LDR



# APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION



The City of Newark  
Landmarks and Historic  
Preservation Commission

Administrative Officer  
Dept. of Engineering  
Room 402, City Hall  
Newark, NJ 07102

201.733.4871

This form is to be submitted to the Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission for its review and recommendation to the Municipal Council for historic designation of a building, structure, site or district on the zoning map of the City of Newark. This application will not be deemed complete until it is so certified by the Administrative Officer of the Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission. An application consists of this form, supporting materials or documentation and the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

Please print or type all items. If not applicable, mark N.A. Form continues on back.

Do not write in shaded area; staff use only.

LHPC DOCKET #	DATE RECEIVED	DATE CERTIFIED AS COMPLETE	STAFF
DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING			
<input type="checkbox"/> Designate <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Designate			
RECOMMENDATION TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL			DATE

NAME OF  
PROPERTY

Riverbank Park  
HISTORIC NAME

LOCATION OF  
PROPERTY

OTHER NAME OR NAMES

Bounded by  
Rumson Blvd. Van Buren St, Somme St & Market Street.  
STREET ADDRESS  
2005 1 I-2  
BLOCK LOT ZONING DISTRICT

PROPERTY  
OWNER

County of Essex (201) 621-6243  
NAME & TITLE (if applicable) TELEPHONE (day)  
Hall of Records Newark, NJ 07102  
STREET ADDRESS ZIP

CLASSIFICATION

☐ private ☒ public-local ☐ public-state ☐ public-Federal ☐ other (explain)  
TYPE OF OWNERSHIP  
☒ site ☐ building ☐ structure ☐ district ☐ other (explain)  
CATEGORY OF PROPERTY

FUNCTIONS/USE  
OF PROPERTY

Public Park used for active & passive  
HISTORICAL FUNCTION OR USE  
recreation by all ages  
Same  
CURRENT FUNCTION OR USE

# NEWARK LANDMARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 4, 1997



**PRESENT:** David Abramson, Dr. Clement Price, The Hon. Claude Coleman, James Lecky, Elizabeth Del Tufo, William Chappel, Arthur Mayer and Stephen Tripp.

**PUBLIC:** Dennis Miranda, New Jersey Conservation Foundation  
Tiwana M. Steward, Riverbank Park Coalition  
Joseph Nardone, Riverbank Park Coalition  
John Lipari, Newark Citizen  
Victoria J. Snoy, Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee  
June Kranzewski, Riverbank Park Coalition  
Irene De Oliveira, Riverbank Park Coalition  
Manuel Stan, SPARK  
Andy Cappon, Citizen

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the public to an Open Public Hearing on Riverbank Park as advertised.

Minutes from the January meeting was moved by Commissioner Abramson and seconded by Dr. C. Price. The vote was unanimous.

The Chair made her opening remarks on the nomination of Riverbank Park as a City Landmark. Commissioner Lecky was selected and introduced to make the presentation.

**Commissioner Lecky:** The application for Historic designation of the aforementioned park was made by the Coalition to Save Riverbank Park. Lecky explained that he did the research to make this possible. He excused himself from the voting and discussion on the matter.

Lecky highlighted the requirements for designation as found in the municipal

the son and step-son took over the business and the firm became the Olmsted Brothers.

- The firm was dissolved around 1950 after producing more than a thousand public and private landscape architectural plans.
- The Olmsted Brothers were affiliated with the Essex County Park Commission until 1932.
- Riverbank Park was built over a period of time beginning in 1908 and ending in 1931. *at least*
- The Park is the smallest County Park in the System consisting of 10.7 acres and is one of two in the Ironbound District. The other park being Independence Park.
- A six acre portion of the Park was built between 1907 and 1910. Later in the late 1920's it was enlarged to include more elements for active recreation.
- During the early years of the Essex County Park Commission Franklin Murphy was the former Governor of New Jersey and a founder of the Newark YMCA and President of the Essex County Park Commission. In 1910 Annual Report stated that Riverbank was one of the smallest in its unfinished state but one of the more largely used.
- In 1926 the Essex County Park Commission issued \$400,000 in bonds to acquire additional park lands and facilities. The park then nearly doubled its size.
- In 1928, 75% of the improvements were done while the grandstand, shelter and field house remained to be completed under the last 25%.
- Riverbank Park flanks on two sides of the Historic Morris Canal bed which runs adjacent to on the Raymond Boulevard side. The Morris Canal Bed is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The description of the Park continues with direct reference to the slide presentation being made. Comments were made concerning trees, views and vistas, its natural setting and architectural elements.
- Commissioner Lecky in his summation cited the three criteria which he believes qualifies Riverbank Park for Local Historic Designation.

- ▶ New York Times articles on Newark;
- ▶ applying for funds for general operation; and,
- ▶ deciding on the allocation of budget funds;

### **New Business**

- ▶ Holding the 1997 Annual Meeting

### **Adjournment**

- ▶ It was moved and properly seconded that this meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting will be March 4, 1997.